With respect to Agenda Item 3 “Agile statistical systems that are fit for the future” (for discussion on Thursday 12 December):

UNSD supports the notion that agile statistical systems are needed to meet current and future demands of society. In that regard, UNSD especially underlines the important work done by the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and data science for official statistics. This Committee explores the use of AI, data science and privacy enhancing technologies together with new and alternative data sources like mobile data, remote sensing, scanner data, webscraping or AIS data to improve the service delivery of statistical offices. UNSD congratulates ESCAP for its recent project work on Big Data in several countries, as was shown in the lunchtime meeting on Monday. UNSD would also like to highlight and commend the contributions of Indonesia through its Regional Hub on Big Data and data science and China through its Global Hub with focus on remote sensing for agriculture statistics and on measuring the digital economy. UNSD would like to encourage all Member States of Asia and the Pacific to benefit from the opportunities of those initiatives.